

MARLOW URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Year 1950

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:

F.H.M. Dummer, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H. (Lond.).

SANITARY INSPECTORS:

C.K. Smith, M.I. Mun.E., A.R.I.C.S., M.R.San. I.

C.R. Lawless, M.S.I.A., A.R.S.I.

28, High Street,

High Wycombe,

Bucks.

July 1951.

To the Chairman and
Members of the Marlow
Urban District Council.

Mr Chairman, Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my third Annual Report as your Council's Medical Officer of Health.

One of the outstanding features of the report has been the maintenance of a local birth rate considerably higher than that of the country generally. Although this rate is less than that recorded last year, at 18.9 it compares favourably with the rate of 15.8 for England and Wales.

The crude death rate for the year is 12.2 compared with a general rate of 11.6, but when adjusted for age and sex the final figure is 11.2 per 1,000.

Three other records in the report are worth mention.

- (a) No person died of tuberculosis although there is an increase in the number of new cases notified.
- (b) No mother died as a result of childbirth, pregnancy or abortion. This is a feature which **one may almost** have come to expect in Marlow, but it would be a mistake to take this favourable circumstance for granted.

Behind this fact lies a wealth of care and attention on the part of doctors, nurses and hospital services. It also speaks well of health education which has established early clinical supervision of pregnancy as a sine qua non of modern thought.

- (c) The infantile mortality rate in Marlow for the year was 16.9 compared with a rate of 29.8 for England and Wales. This highly satisfactory result does great credit to the care of mothers for young children and the services which are available for sick infants. No feature of public health in the last 50 years has been more dramatically brought out than the infant mortality rate. Not so long ago the figure of 100 was regarded as ideal - today the rate makes this "ideal" look absurd.

Only two cases of infectious disease occurred in the year 1950, an all-time low record for Marlow.

My thanks are due to your Officers, Mr Kelvin Smith and Mr Lawless for their assistance and co-operation in the work of the Public Health Department.

I am,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

F.H.M. DUMMER.

S T A T I S T I C S

Area in Acres.....	1,664
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population mid-year 1950.....	6,444
Number of inhabited houses according to rate books (end of 1950).....	1,948
Rateable Value.....	£49,507
Estimated product of Penny Rate.....	£206

EXTRACT FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1950

BIRTHS.

		<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Live Births	Legitimate	48	67	115
	Illegitimate	5	2	7
		<hr/> 53	<hr/> 69	<hr/> 122
Still Births	Legitimate	1	1	2
	Illegitimate	-	-	-
		<hr/> 1	<hr/> 1	<hr/> 2

Comparability Factor	=	1.00
The Birth Rate per thousand of the Estimated Population	=	18.9
The Birth Rate of England and Wales	=	15.8
The Still Birth Rate of Estimated Population	=	0.31
The Still Birth Rate of England and Wales	=	0.37

DEATHS.

Number of Deaths	-	Males	-	31
		Demales	-	48
				<hr/> 79

The death rate per thousand of population	=	12.2
The death rate of England and Wales	=	11.6
Comparability Factor	=	0.92
Adjusted Death Rate	=	11.2

TABLE OF DEATHS

<u>DISEASE.</u>	<u>MALES.</u>	<u>FEMALES.</u>	<u>TOTAL.</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	-	-	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-	-
3. Syphilitic disease.....	1	-	1
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-	-
5. Whooping Cough... ..	-	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	-	-
7. Acture Poliomyelitis.....	-	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-	-
9. Other infectious diseases.....	-	-	-
10. Cancer, stomach.....	3	-	3
11. Cancer, lungs.....	1	-	1
12. Cancer, breast.....	-	2	2
13. Cancer, uterus.....	-	-	-
14. Other cancers.....	3	7	10
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	-	-	-
16. Diabetes.....	-	2	2
17. Vascular lesions, nervous system.....	3	5	8
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	3	3	6
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	-	2	2
20. Other heart disease.....	8	16	24
21. Other circulatory disease.....	-	2	2
22. Influenza.....	-	-	-
23. Pneumonia.....	1	1	2
24. Bronchitis.....	2	2	4
25. Other respiratory diseases.....	-	-	-
26. Gastric and duodenal ulcer.....	1	-	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	1	1
28. Nephritis, nephrosis.....	-	2	2
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1	-	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	-	-	-
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases....	4	3	7
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	-	-	-
34. Other accidents.....	-	-	-
35. Suicide.....	-	-	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-	-
All Causes.....	31	48	79

CANCER DEATHS.

1950	-	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	=	16.
1949	-	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	=	16
1948	-	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	=	13
1947	-	Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	=	7

The distribution related to organs affected, was as follows:-

Stomach.....	3
Lungs.....	1
Breast.....	2
Uterus.....	-
Other Sites.....	10

MATERNAL DEATHS.

- (a) From puerperal sepsis.....
- (b) From other maternal causes.....

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

Two infants (one male, one female) died under the age of one year. This represents an Infant Mortality Rate of 16.39 per thousand related births compared with 29.8 per thousand in England and Wales.

TUBERCULOSIS.

TABIE 1: NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1950.

(b)

(a)

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0								
1	1	1						
5								
10			1					
15	1							
25	1							
35								
45								
55								
65+								
Totals:	3	2	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

no deaths occurred. The Tuberculosis death rate for England and Wales for 1950 is 0.36.

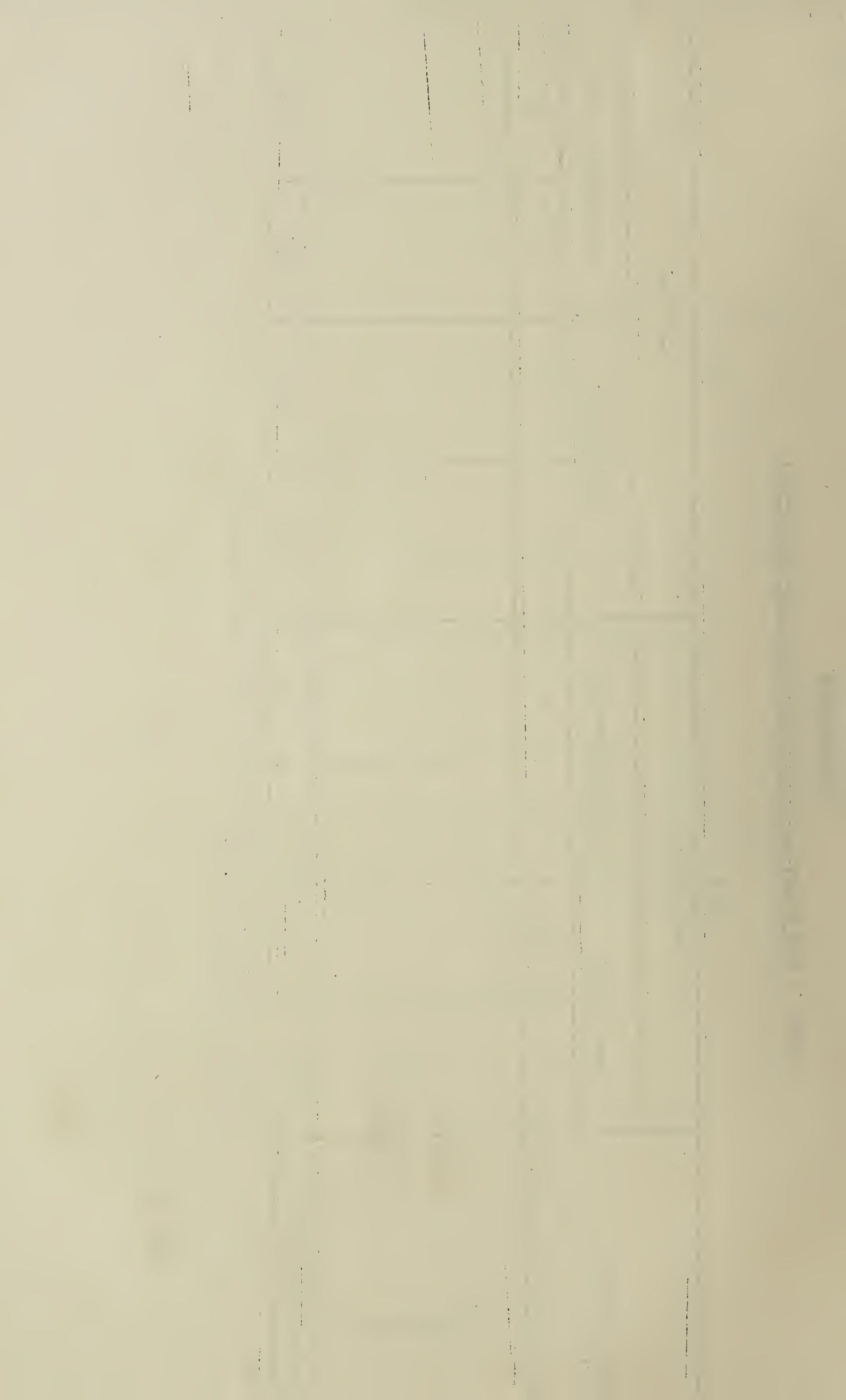
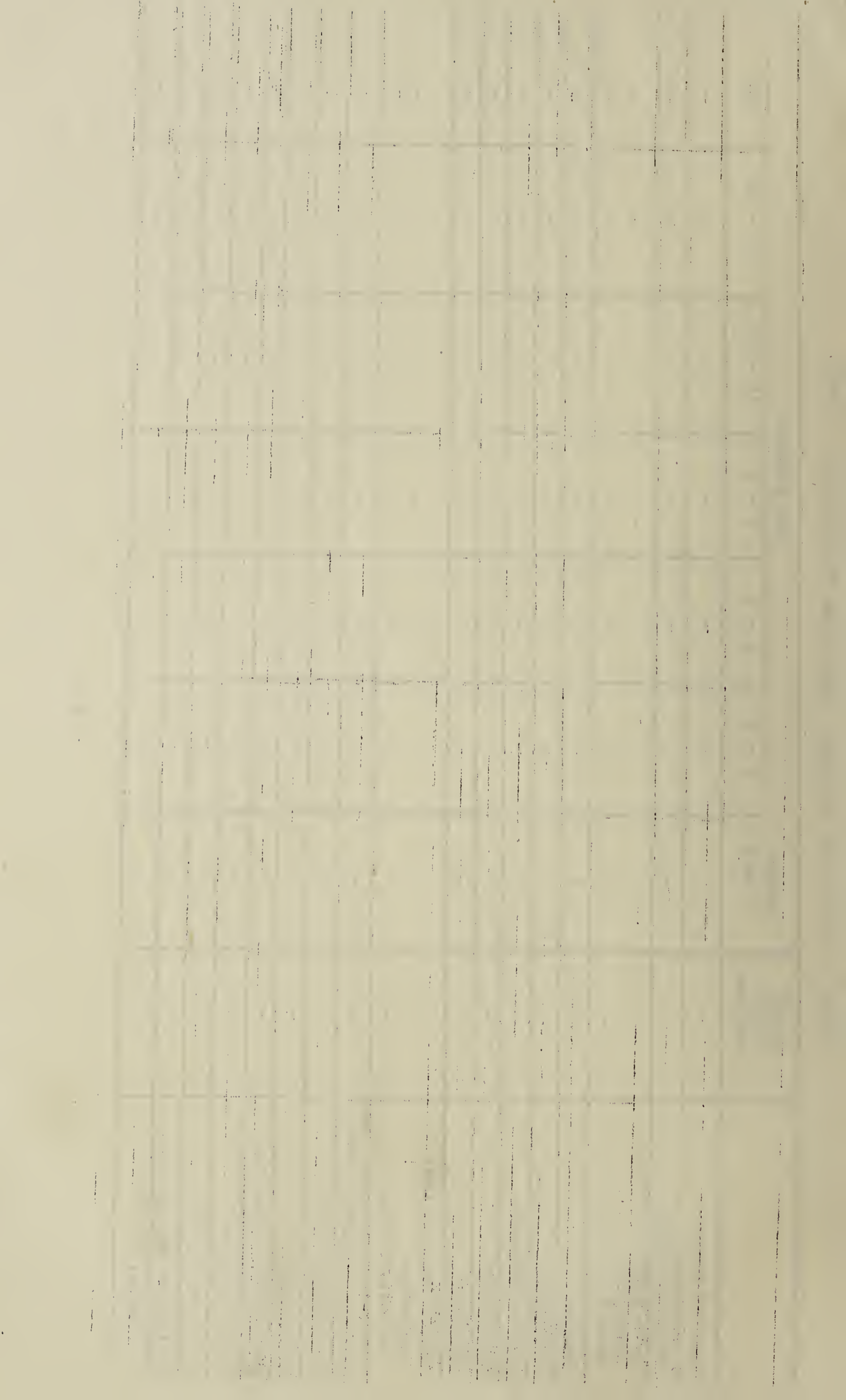


TABLE 2: NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS), 1950

	Total Cases Notified	Under 1 year	Age Periods					
			1 - 2	3 - 4	5 - 9	10 - 14	15 - 24	25+
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis: Paralytic	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Non- Paralytic	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Acute encephalitis: Infective	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enteric of Typhoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Meningoccal Infection	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:	2	1	1	-	-	-	-	-



IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA.

Immunisation against diphtheria (and, where desirable, whooping-cough) continues to be carried out in schools and the Infant Welfare Centre, in your District, by arrangements made with the Bucks County Council. It is also optional for all persons to choose to have this service performed by their elected doctor under the National Health Service Act (1946). Completed record cards are now required to be returned to the County Health Department by all services. Completed courses of immunisation (including A.P.T. and combined diphtheria-pertussis vaccine) amounted to 86 for the year 1950.

AMBULANCE SERVICES.

The Ambulance arrangements for your District, made under proposals submitted by the County Council in accordance with Section 27 of the National Health Service Act (1946) and approved by the Ministry of Health are those which were already in existence before the appointed day.

(a) For Infectious Cases:-

An Ambulance is supplied by the Wycombe and District Joint Hospital Board for service in the Borough of High Wycombe, and the Urban Districts of Beaconsfield and Marlow and the Rural District of Wycombe. The facilities are adequate for the areas served.

(b) For Non-Infectious Cases:-

An Ambulance is maintained for Accidents and routine transport by the Local Corps of the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Ambulances are also available from Bourne End and the adjoining Boroughs of High Wycombe and Henley-on-Thames. These services are satisfactory.

HOSPITALS.

The available Hospitals in the district are the Metropolitan Hospitals The Royal Berkshire Hospital, Reading, and the King Edward VII Hospital, Windsor. In addition, there is the Marlow Cottage Hospital.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The laboratory facilities of the Public Health Laboratory, Walton Street, Oxford, are available for all investigations carried out on behalf of the Council. Arrangements are made direct with the Laboratory for the transport of material. Periodic use has also been made of the Camberwell Research Laboratories.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The Sewerage Disposal Works continue to function satisfactorily. Consideration is now being given to the extension of sewers in parts of your Council's area not already drained to public sewers.

WATER SUPPLIES.

Water is supplied by the deep wells of the Marlow Water Company. It is estimated that 1,910 houses are supplied direct from the public mains, representing 98% of the inhabited houses. In all, 15 samples were taken throughout the year. The supply has been adequate in quantity and generally in quality, but in August 1950 some degree of contamination was reported by the Secretary/Engineer of the Company. An immediate survey of properties and drainage was undertaken and as a result (in conjunction with Wycombe Rural District Council) it was decided to extend the existing sewer to cover properties within the immediate area of operation of the boreholes.

At the end of the year, the following reports were made on the supply:-

MARLOW PUMPING STATION,
CHALK PIT LANE, MARLOW.

Results of Analyses.

Date of Sample.	Number of colonies developing from 1ml of the water in a :-		Bile Salt Medium at 37°C in 48 hrs.		MacConkey Broth Test for presump-tive presence of B. Coli and Congeners.	Faecal Coli.	Lead, Copper, Zinc.	Remarks.
27th December.	-	0	Nutrient Agar Medium at 37°C in 48 hrs.	0	Well No 3. Absent in 61 mls of this water.	-	Absent.	The sample was satisfactory.
27th	-	1		0	Well No 4. Absent in 61 mls of this water.	-	Absent.	The sample was satisfactory.

STATEMENT OF WORKS OF SANITARY INSPECTOR UNDER ARTICLE 27
OF THE SANITARY OFFICERS ORDER, 1935.

Acts and Sections.	Notices served		Complied with		Not complied with		In progress	
	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	Informal	Formal	In-formal	Formal.
P.H. Act 1936 Sect. 58	1	Nil	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sect. 75	2	1	2	Nil	Nil	1	Nil	Nil
Sect. 93.	Nil	5	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
Housing Act 1936. Sect. 9.	15	2	13	Nil	1	1	7	1
TOTAL	18	8	16	3	1	2	7	3

The Formal Notice served under Section 75 of the Public Health Act 1936 was not complied with and proceedings were taken against the Owners in the Local Court of Summary Jurisdiction. These proceedings failed and the Occupiers voluntarily and without prejudice provided a new dustbin.

MILK SUPPLIES.

Periodic inspections have been carried out of dairies, and inspections arising from complaints.

MEAT.

During the year inspections of carcasses at the Ministry of Food Slaughterhouse in the District have been maintained and the undermentioned amounts of meat have been condemned:-

<u>BEEF.</u>	<u>MUTTON.</u>	<u>PORK.</u>	<u>LIVERS.</u>	<u>OFFAL.</u>	<u>VEAL.</u>
13,749 lbs.	207 lbs.	539 lbs.	8,053 lbs.	4,854 lbs.	216 lbs.

During the year the number of kills at this slaughterhouse were as follows:-

<u>CATTLE.</u>	<u>SHEEP.</u>	<u>CALVES.</u>	<u>PIGS.</u>
1,890	4,258	434	23

The rate of killing from the month of August 1950 proved too much for the service available for inspection by the Public Health Department. This circumstance was brought about by the closure of neighbouring slaughterhouses and the subsequent re-distribution of carcasses. An appeal was made to Wycombe Rural District Council for the assistance of their Sanitary Inspectors in the duty of inspection. These Sanitary Inspectors carried out routine inspections throughout the remainder of the year and I have to record our deep appreciation of their services.

OTHER FOODS.

During the year the Sanitary Inspectors have issued 47 Condemnation Notes in respect of foodstuffs condemned. These certificates in the main, relate to canned food. Periodic examination of ice-cream has been carried out and samples were considered satisfactory.

FOOD POISONING.

There were no cases of food poisoning notified during 1950.

FACTORIES ACT 1937.

Two additional factories have been opened up during the year and entered in the Register of Factories in the District. One registered factory was deleted from the Register in the year under review. Factories appearing on the Register have been inspected from time to time.

HOUSING.

(i) Unfit Dwelling-Houses.

- (a) The total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under the Public Health and Housing Acts..... 44
- (b) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be not fit for human habitation..... Nil
- (c) Number of dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations 1925.... Nil
- (d) Number of dwelling-houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 32

(ii) Remedy of Defects without Service of Formal Notices.

Number of defective dwelling-houses made fit in consequence of informal action being taken by Local Authority or their Officers..... 18

(iii) Action taken under Statutory Powers.

(a) Proceedings under Sect. 9 of the Housing Act 1936.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices have been served requiring repairs..... 2

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit by owner..... 1

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.

Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were found and notices served requiring defects to be remedied..... 5

Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied:.....

By Owners..... 3

By Local Authority in Default..... Nil

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act 1936.

Number of dwelling houses in respect of which "Time & Place" Notices have been served upon the owners..... 4

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... Nil

Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... Nil

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act 1936.

Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were determined but tenement or room having been rendered fit..... Nil

(e) Housing Act 1936, Part IV - Overcrowding.

The return of many families to the original areas from which they were evacuated during the war years has assisted in the lessening of overcrowding, but this fact still remains of considerable importance, although it is gradually being offset by the erection of new houses.

